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described in a later paper. This species is also rather variable in length. One individual was found which had a length of 7 mm., and was dividing in two places, behind the 22nd and the 36th segments.

In ponds, etc. Texas (College Station).

A. and M. College, Texas.

HORACE EDWIN HAYDEN, JR.

A NEMATODE PARASITE OF THE ALLIGATOR.

While dissecting an eighteen-inch Florida Alligator a curious swelling was noticed on the outside of the larger chamber of the stomach. On opening this swelling it was found to contain a small, coiled worm. The worm was sent to Dr. Edwin Linton for identification and proved to be, so far as could be determined, an immature specimen of *Ascaris tenuicollis* Rudolphi.

The worm had been hardened in formalin before it was discovered, so that it could not be uncoiled, but it was about 75 mm. in length.

Figure 1 shows the stomach of the alligator with the worm, n, in the capsule, but with the outer covering removed. This figure is about life size.

Figure 2 shows the worm after removal from the capsule, enlarged several times. Both figures are from photographs.

ALBERT M. REESE.

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BEHAVIOR OF PIGMENT CELLS IN LARVAE OF AMPHIBIANS.

Holmes (U. of Cal. Pub. Zool. Sept., 1913) has studied the pigment cells of *Hyla regilla* in hanging drop cultures of small pieces of the larvae. He was thus enabled to see both the outlines of the cells and the position of the pigment. In their natural position in the tissues it is practically impossible to see the actual outlines of the cells. In the hanging drop cultures the pigment cells may wander away from the rest of the tissue and become entirely isolated. These chromatophores differed widely in shape, and the individual cells changed shape readily, much after the manner of the *Ameba*. There is a thin layer of transparent ectoplasm behaving much like that in the *Ameba*. The endoplasm contains the pigment granules, varying greatly in amount.

The author makes it clear that the pigment cells in the larvae of *Hyla* change their form, and thus the distribution of pigment in the skin. He feels that these cell processes may become more fixed in the adult, and that the changes in the distribution of pigment may be rather due to migration of the endoplasm carrying the granules along these fixed branches as many students have held. It is unsafe however to deny that they may still retain some ameboid powers of change of form even in the adult.

BEHAVIOR OF ECTODERMIC EPITHELIUM.

Holmes (U. of Cal. Pub. Zool. Sept. 1913) gives an account of the study of epithelial cells *in vitro*, which supports the view that the movements of the epithelium known to take place in the healing of wounds are aided by active pseudopodial growths. He found that pieces of larvae cultivated in plasma send out strands of ectodermal cells into the plasma; that these tend to extend upon solid surfaces; that isolated epithelial cells tend to spread out and to creep along such surfaces; that such scattered cells may unite into a continuous membrane; that these cells have a thin, clear ectoplasm which puts forth pseudopodia. He believes these pseudopodia are actively engaged in these migrations of cells. Healing of wounds and restoration of the epithelium is not due then primarily to cell division of cells already at the edges; but much more to active migration, fusion, and spreading of suitable cells.

CROSS INOCULATION OF LEGUMES.

Ewart and Thomson (Proc. R. S. Victoria, Mch. 1913) undertook to determine whether bacteria from the root nodules of native Victorian legumes were able directly to infect the cultivated leguminose plants not native to Victoria. The results were negative. The authors suggest that the parasitic bacteria of particular root nodules are biologically adapted to the conditions in the host plant, and cannot directly adapt themselves to a new host plant.

It was found possible to infect peas and beans with bacteria from acacia tubercles, *after these had been isolated and cultivated on nutrient gelatin*. The conclusion is that the parasitic bacteria, when placed in sterile soil or in non-living media, become more gen-